

Date 5.4.17

The Chairman
Wallarah 2 Coal Project Public Hearing

Dear Ms Kruck,

I am a Turf Farmer, irrigator and primary producer on a farm adjacent to the Wallarah 2 mine boundary in the Yarramalong Valley. I oppose the Amended Development Application for the Wallarah 2 coal mine. This amendment makes a bad development even worse.

BHP Billiton through COAL sold the Wallarah lease to KORES for good reason. I believe BHP were not prepared to subside the valley floors, the 1:100 flood affected areas, or adversely impact on the water supply for the Central Coast. I further believe that KORES purchased the lease on spec, on a slim chance that the mine would be allowed to proceed. This speculation by KORES on a mine that BHP was not prepared to develop for good reason should not be sanctioned or approved.

The Central Coast endured some 10 years of heavy water restrictions due to drought in the 2000's. No one would wish to go through the experience again. In 2010, the Mardi to Mangrove Link pipeline was constructed to eliminate the consequences of drought on the Central Coast. However this pipeline depends on harvesting water from Jilliby Creek in high flow and flood times. The Wallarah 2 mine impacts negatively on surface water flows and aquifers, thereby threatening the Central Coast water supply.

I believe there is a significant health risk due to the stress residents may suffer over the mine life. Many farms and homes will be subsided, some into the 1:100 year flood, with homes damaged and farms rendered useless due to flood impacts which will last longer than is currently the case. The knowledge that your home is going to be damaged or destroyed or your farm is to be rendered flood prone or useless or your farm business is going to be ruined will impact negatively on the sanity of the residents. The impact of stress on the community and individuals and the possibility of suicide, heart attack or other stress related illnesses have not been properly assessed by the applicant.

The coal dust generated from the rail wagons and coal stockpile and rail facilities would have to be added to the already significant pollution from the coal fired power stations and the cumulative impact assessed in the EIS. I understand the incidence of asthma and other respiratory diseases in the Wyong area are well above state norms without the impact of dust being heaped on the residents of Blue Haven, the future suburb on Darkinjung land and every suburb on the rail route between Wyong and the coal loaders in Newcastle. The proposed coal rail loading facility adjacent to the Sydney to Newcastle rail line, Blue Haven and the proposed Darkinjung housing development is not acceptable on health or aesthetic grounds. This facility will make for an appallingly ugly entry into the Central Coast by rail and the impact of dust, light and noise contamination on residential areas is unacceptable.

The proposed mine is not supported by the Central Coast Regional Plan. The non compliance with the Plan includes:

Action 3.1.1 of the Plan is to support development of the agricultural and aquaculture sectors. The subsidizing of productive farmland, rendering it flood prone and useless is as far from supporting agriculture as is possible. The plan says the NSW Government will work with Councils to:

- Protect productive land and resources from incompatible development
- Identify and protect significant agricultural lands

- Facilitate the continuation and co-location of agricultural activities
- Retain and increase opportunities to keep fresh foods available locally
- Recognize and protect the economic potential of productive agricultural land.

Action 4.2.2 Sustainably manage surface water and groundwater

The Plan requires decision makers to minimize the effects of development on waterways to meet Water Quality and River Flow objectives.

The Wallarah 2 mine maximizes the effect of development on waterways and risks water quality and flow objectives.

The NSW Government and BHP Billiton have agreed that the government buy back the Caroona mine license on the Liverpool Plains. The basis of this buy back is the necessity to protect the farming areas of the Liverpool Plains and its aquifers. The water catchment and aquifers of the Central Coast and the farmers and farms of the Dooralong Valley deserve the same protection as those of the Liverpool Plains. The circumstances are identical for both mines, with the added negative that with the amended application Wallarah 2 is to impact severely on densely populated residential areas. In the case of the Wallarah 2 mine however, there is no need to buy back the license. The exploration license should never have been let. The mine has no merit and will result in totally unacceptable damage.

I request that the Wallarah 2 mine and the amendment be refused outright.

Laurie Eyes